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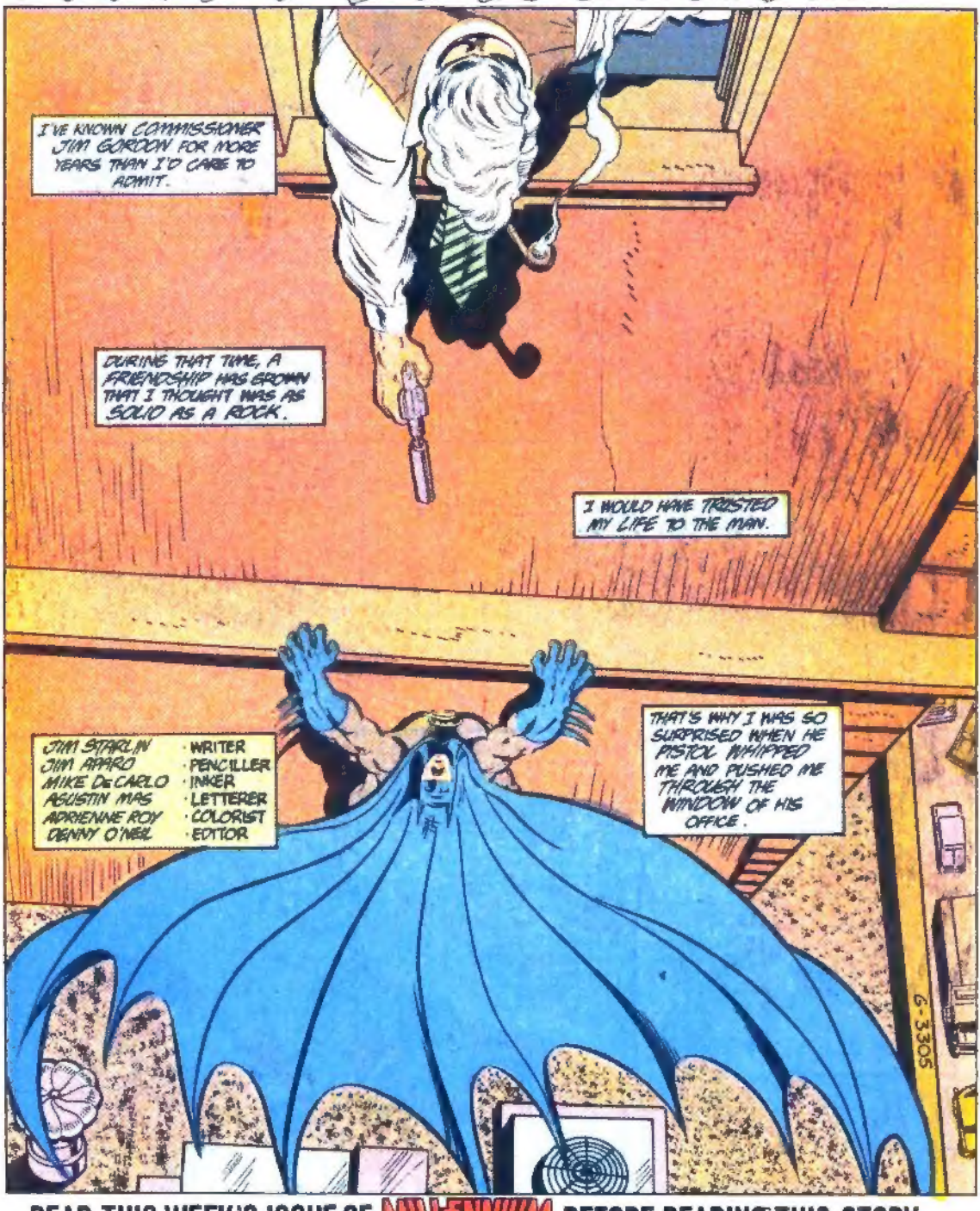
MILLENNIUM™ WEEK 2
BATMAN®
THE NEW ADVENTURES
BY STARLIN, APARO & DECARLO
™

MILLENNIUM™


I'VE KNOWN COMMISSIONER JIM GORDON FOR MORE YEARS THAN I'D CARE TO ADMIT.
DURING THAT TIME, A FRIENDSHIP HAS GROWN THAT I THOUGHT WAS AS SOLID AS A ROCK.
I WOULD HAVE TRUSTED MY LIFE TO THE MAN.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN HE PISTOL WHIPPED ME AND PUSHED ME THROUGH THE WINDOW OF HIS OFFICE.
JIM STARLIN · WRITER
JIM APARO · PENCILLER
MIKE DeCARLO · INKER
ASUSTIN MAS · LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY · COLORIST
DENNY O'NEIL · EDITOR
6-3305

READ THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF MILLENNIUM BEFORE READING THIS STORY

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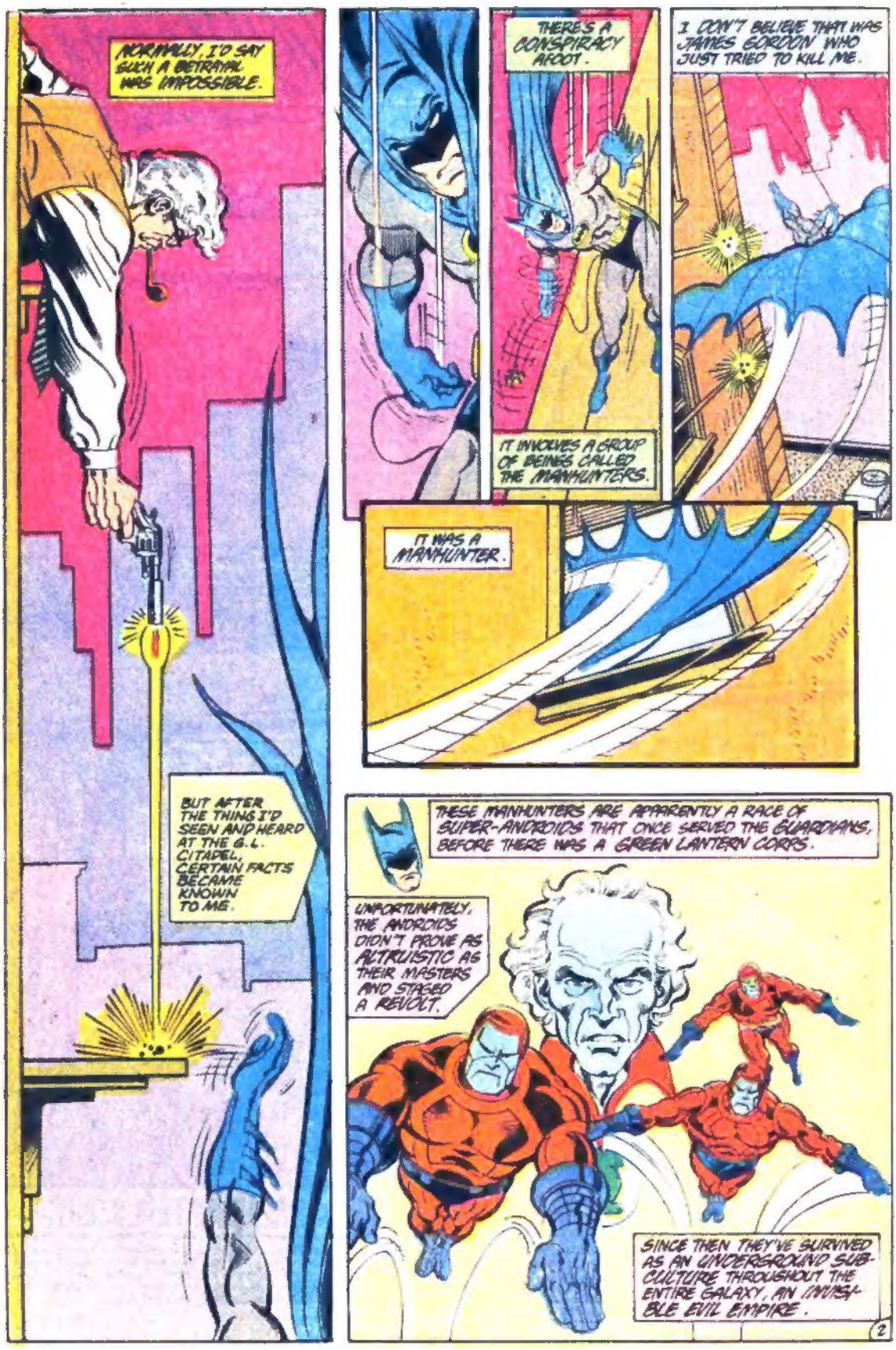
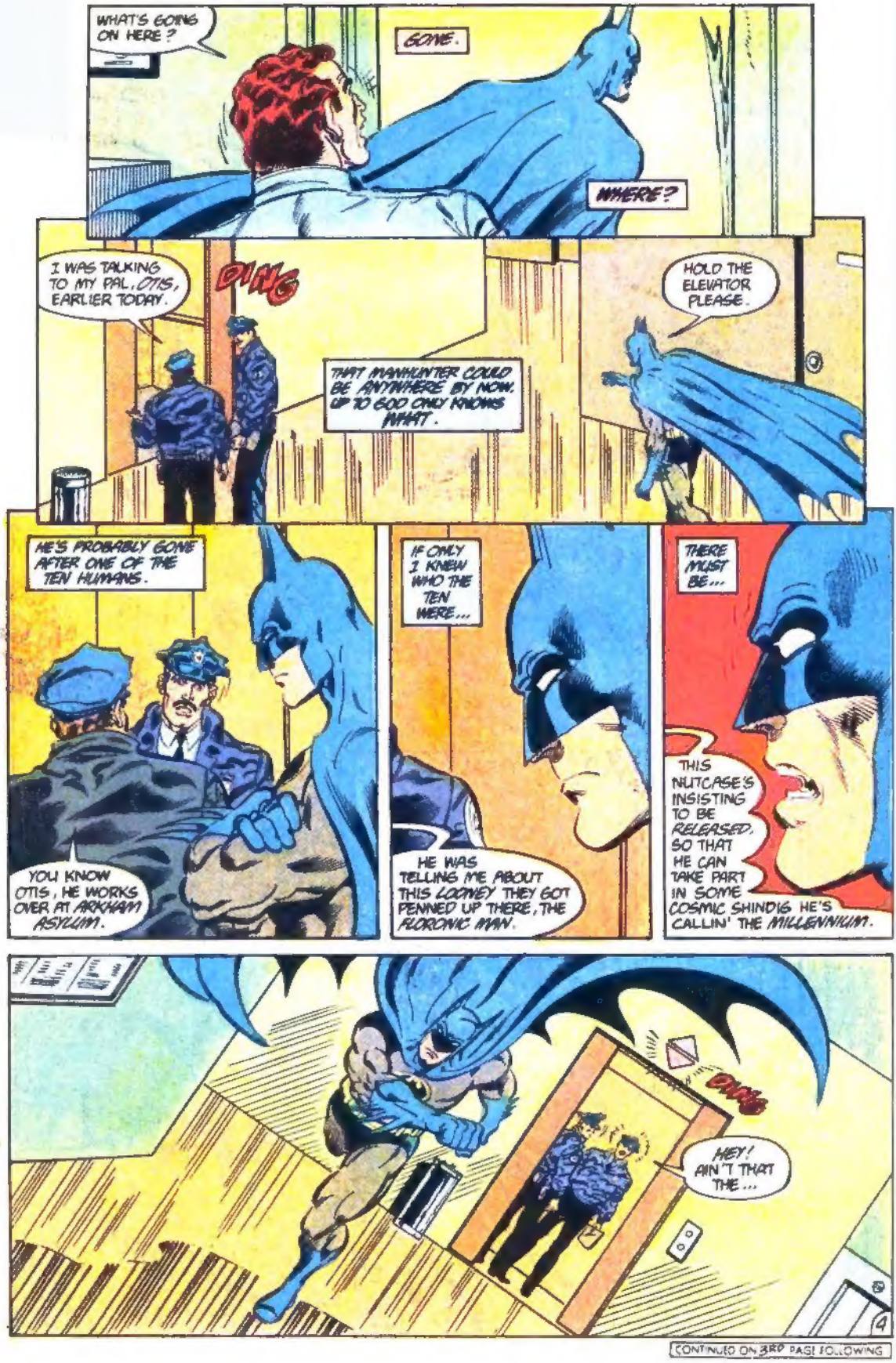

NORMALLY, I'D SAY SUCH A BETRAYAL WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT AFTER THE THING I'D SEEN AND HEARD AT THE G.L. CITADEL, CERTAIN FACTS BECAME KNOWN TO ME.
THERE'S A CONSPIRACY AFOOT.
IT INVOLVES A GROUP OF BEINGS CALLED THE MANHUNTERS.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WAS JAMES GORDON WHO JUST TRIED TO KILL ME.
IT WAS A MANHUNTER.
THESE MANHUNTERS ARE APPARENTLY A RACE OF SUPER-ANDROIDS THAT ONCE SERVED THE GUARDIANS, BEFORE THERE WAS A GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE ANDROIDS DIDN'T PROVE AS ALTRUISTIC AS THEIR MASTERS AND STAGED A REVOLT.
SINCE THEN THEY'VE SURVIVED AS AN UNDERGROUND SUB-CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GALAXY, AN INVISIBLE EVIL EMPIRE.
2

FOR SOME REASON, THE MANHUNTERS CONSIDER AN UPCOMING COSMIC EVENT, CALLED THE MILLENNIUM, A THREAT TO THEIR EXISTENCE.
IT SEEMS THAT A GUARDIAN NAMED HERCUPA AND A ZAMARON CALLED NADIA HAVE COME TO EARTH TO HERALD THIS MYSTERIOUS OCCURRENCE.
THEY'VE CHOSEN TEN PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THIS GRAND EVENT.*
* SEE MILLENNIUM #1+2 FOR DETAILS.
THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, THE MANHUNTERS PLAN TO HOLD SWAY OVER THESE TEN HUMANS TO STOP THE MILLENNIUM FROM HAPPENING.
?
THEY ALSO HAVE A PLAN TO KEEP US SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES FROM INTERFERING WITH THEIR SINISTER PLOT.
SOME OF MY CONTEMPORARIES HAVE INFORMED ME THAT THEY'VE BEEN CONTACTED BY MANHUNTERS IN HUMAN FORM.
THESE BEINGS HAVE THREATENED TO REVEAL THE HEROES' SECRET IDENTITIES TO THE WORLD IF THEY DOESN'T LOOK THE OTHER WAY ON THIS MATTER.
WHEN THIS HASN'T WORKED, THE MANHUNTERS HAVE TRIED MURDER.
GORDON'S OBVIOUSLY MY MANHUNTER.
I SEE NO REASON TO PUT OFF FACING THIS PROBLEM.
SO...
BATMAN...
...COMMISSIONER GORDON...
WHAM
...HE LEFT A MOMENT AGO.
YOU JUST MISSED HIM.
3


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GONE.
WHERE?
I WAS TALKING TO MY PAL, OTIS, EARLIER TODAY.
DING
THAT MANHUNTER COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW. UP TO GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT.
HOLD THE ELEVATOR PLEASE.
HE'S PROBABLY GONE AFTER ONE OF THE TEN HUMANS.
YOU KNOW OTIS, HE WORKS OVER AT ARKHAM ASYLUM.
IF ONLY I KNEW WHO THE TEN WERE...
HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT THIS LOONEY THEY GOT PENNED UP THERE, THE FLORONIC MAN.
THERE MUST BE...
THIS NUTCASE'S INSISTING TO BE RELEASED, SO THAT HE CAN TAKE PART IN SOME COSMIC SHINDIG HE'S CALLIN' THE MILLENNIUM.
DING
HEY! AIN'T THAT THE...
4

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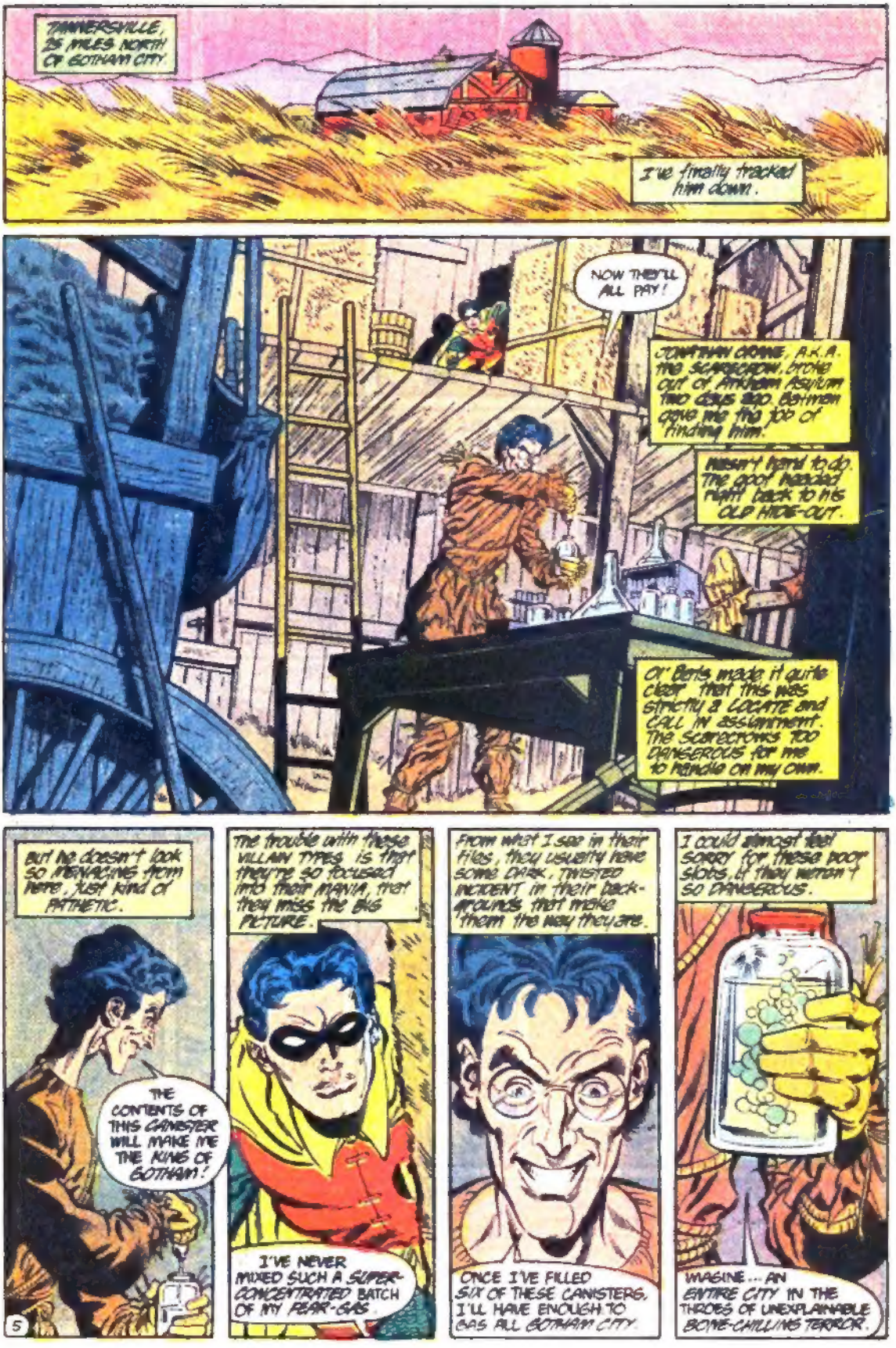
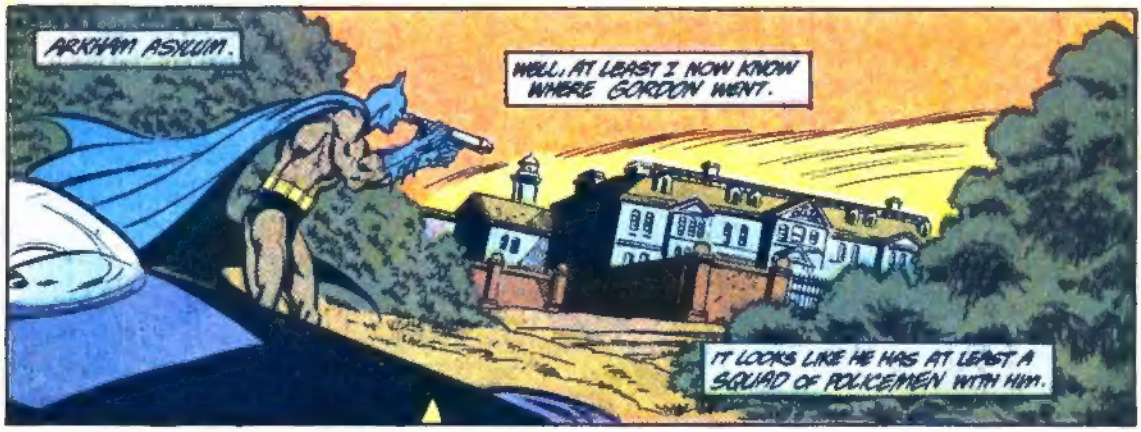

TANNERSVILLE, 25 MILES NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY.
I've finally tracked him down.
NOW THEY'LL ALL PAY!
JONATHAN CRANE, A.K.A. the SCARECROW, broke out of Arkham Asylum two days ago. Batman gave me the job of finding him.
Wasn't hard to do. The goof headed right back to his old hide-out.
Ol' Boris made it quite clear that this was strictly a LOCATE and CALL IN assignment. The Scarecrow's too dangerous for me to handle on my own.
But he doesn't look so menacing from here, just kind of PATHETIC.
THE CONTENTS OF THIS CANISTER WILL MAKE ME THE KING OF GOTHAM!
The trouble with these villain types is that they're so focused into their MANIA, that they miss the big PICTURE.
I'VE NEVER MIXED SUCH A SUPER-CONCENTRATED BATCH OF MY FEAR-GAS.
From what I see in their files, they usually have some DARK, TWISTED INCIDENT in their backgrounds that make them the way they are.
ONCE I'VE FILLED SIX OF THESE CANISTERS, I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO GAS ALL GOTHAM CITY.
I could almost feel sorry for these poor slobs, if they weren't so DANGEROUS.
IMAGINE... AN ENTIRE CITY IN THE THROES OF UNEXPLAINABLE BONE-CHILLING TERROR.
5

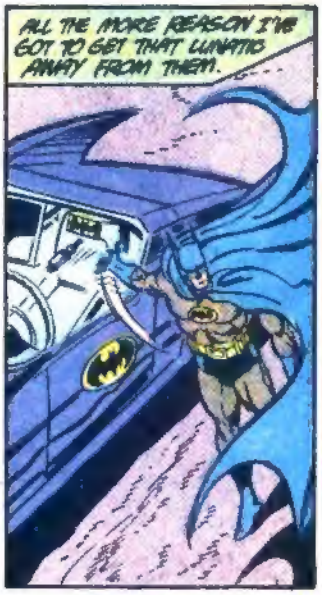
ALL OF GOTHAM CITY PARALYZED IN FEAR, WHILE I LOOT ITS BANKS AND CONVENIENCE STORES!
I think I've hated enough. Time to put this fruitcake out of business.
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO...
...STOP ME!
MY MASK!
KRACK
GOTTA GET MY...
...MASK ON.
AAAIIEEEEEEEEEEEE!
6


ARKHAM ASYLUM.
WELL, AT LEAST I NOW KNOW WHERE GORDON WENT.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS AT LEAST A SQUAD OF POLICEMEN WITH HIM.

SEEMS MY MANHUNTER HAS DECIDED THAT IF HE CAN'T KILL ME, AT LEAST HE CAN KEEP ME FROM REACHING THE FLORONIC MAN.

I'M SURPRISED THE MANHUNTER HASN'T JUST MURDERED THE FLORONIC MAN AND SPLIT.

PERHAPS THE MANHUNTERS HOPE TO PUT THE PLANT MAN TO SOME OTHER USE.


ALL THE MORE REASON I'VE GOT TO GET THAT LUNATIC AWAY FROM THEM.

I COULD TOUGH MY WAY INTO ARKHAM RIGHT NOW--THERE'RE NO MORE THAN THIRTY ARMED GUARDS DOWN THERE.
BUT SOMEONE'S LIKELY TO GET KILLED THAT WAY...
MOST LIKELY THE FLORONIC MAN.

I THINK I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.

A HALF HOUR LATER I'M AT THE BATCAVE.
ROBIN!?

OH...HI, BRUCE.
SO YOU ARE HERE.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU ON THE MOBILE PHONE FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN MINUTES.
7

I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY.
HOW YOU DOING ON LOCATING THE SCARECROW?
THE INVESTIGATION IS... PROGRESSING NICELY!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
YES... SORT OF.
WELL?
HE'S IN THE NEXT ROOM!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
A SMALL OVERDOSE OF FEAR-GAS.
FROM WHAT I'VE GATHERED FROM HIS PAPERS THAT MASTER ROBIN BROUGHT BACK...
...I FEAR OUR GUEST WILL BE IN THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT 36 HOURS.
I'VE GIVEN HIM A SEDATIVE.
...MY MASK...
I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WANTED YOU TO ONLY FOLLOW THE SCARECROW, AND NOT TAKE ANY ACTION.
WELL, YEAH... BUT I... IT WAS...
WELL. WE'LL DISCUSS THIS MATTER LATER. IN THE MEANTIME GET OUT THE DESGUISE KIT.
YES, SIR.
8

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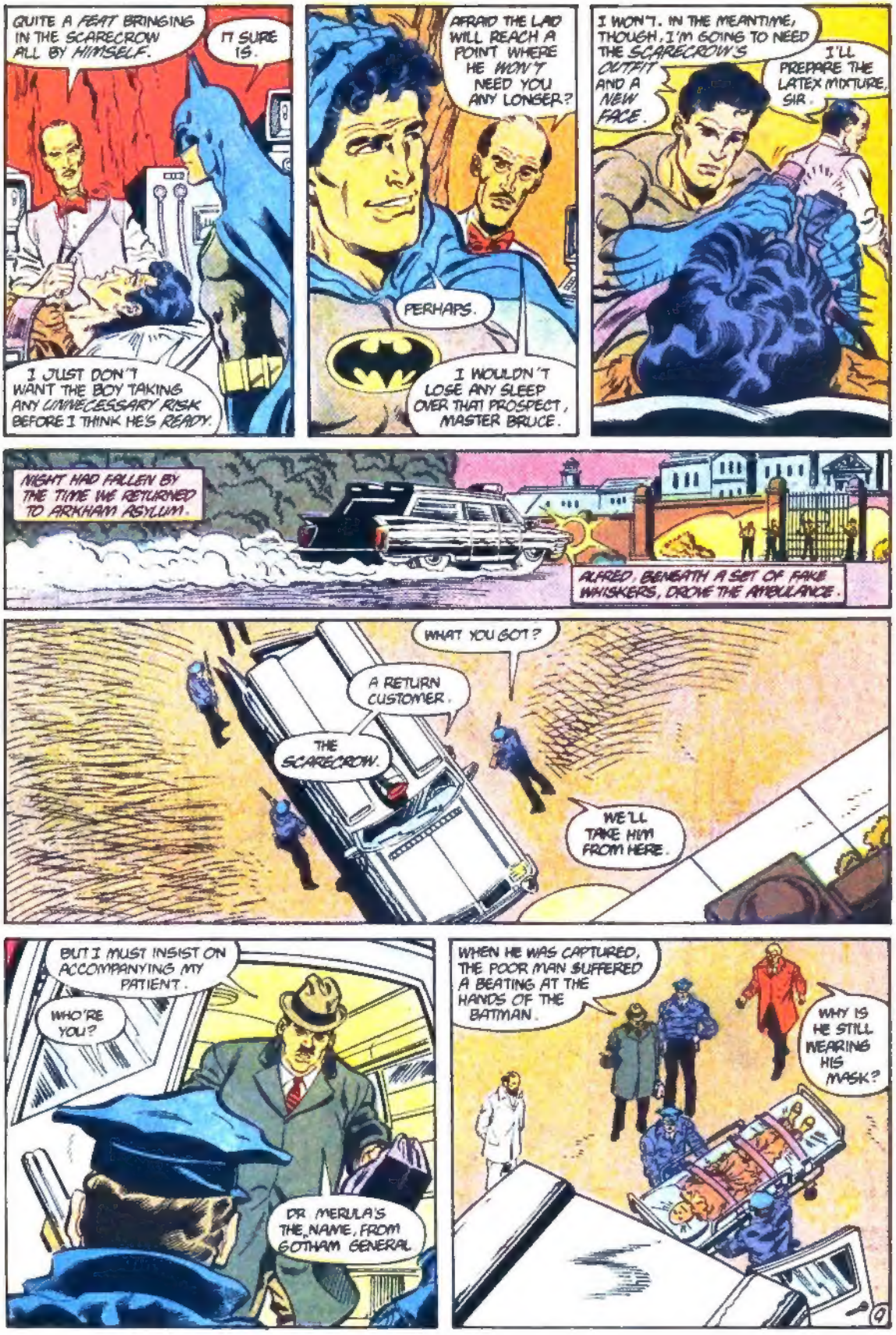
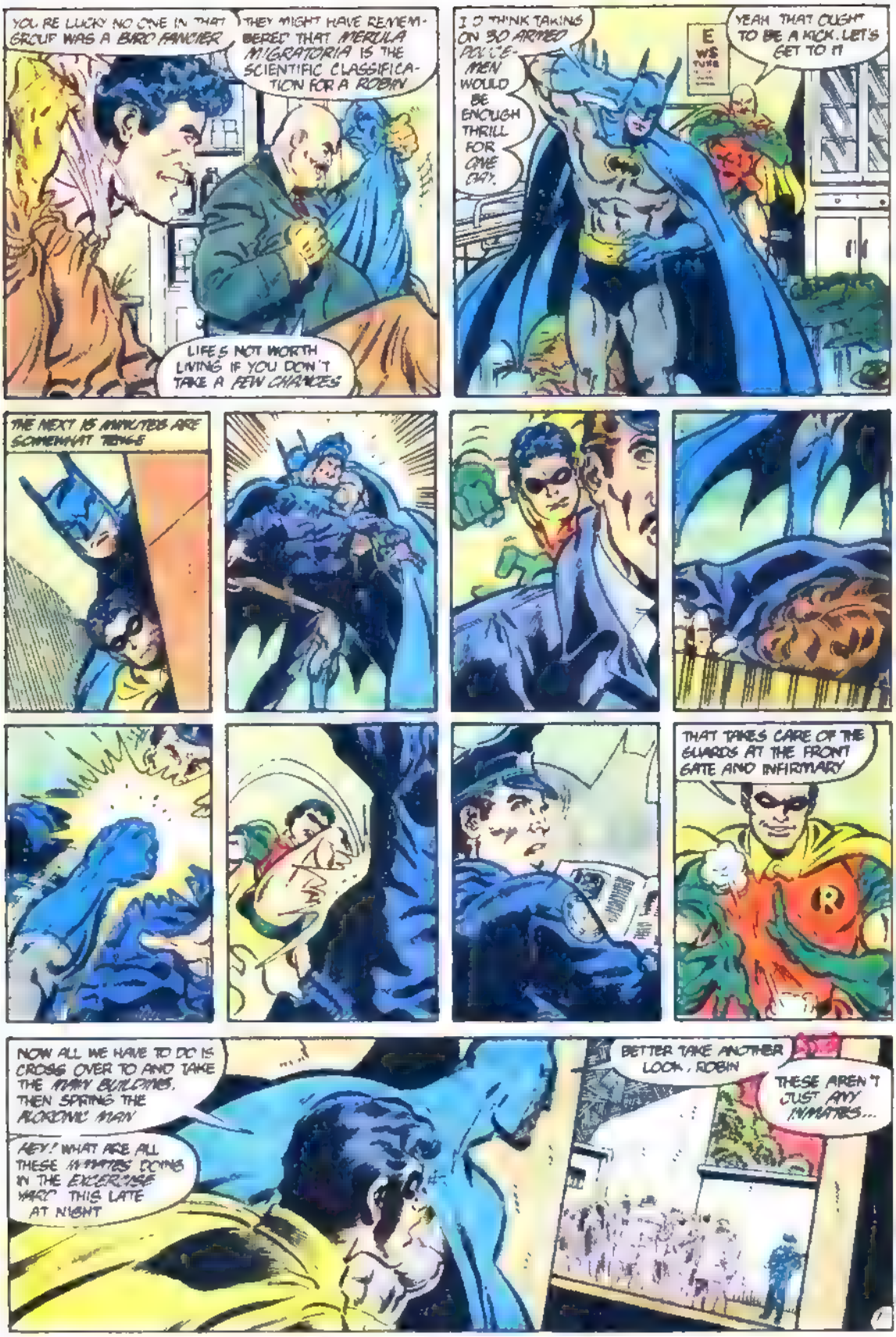
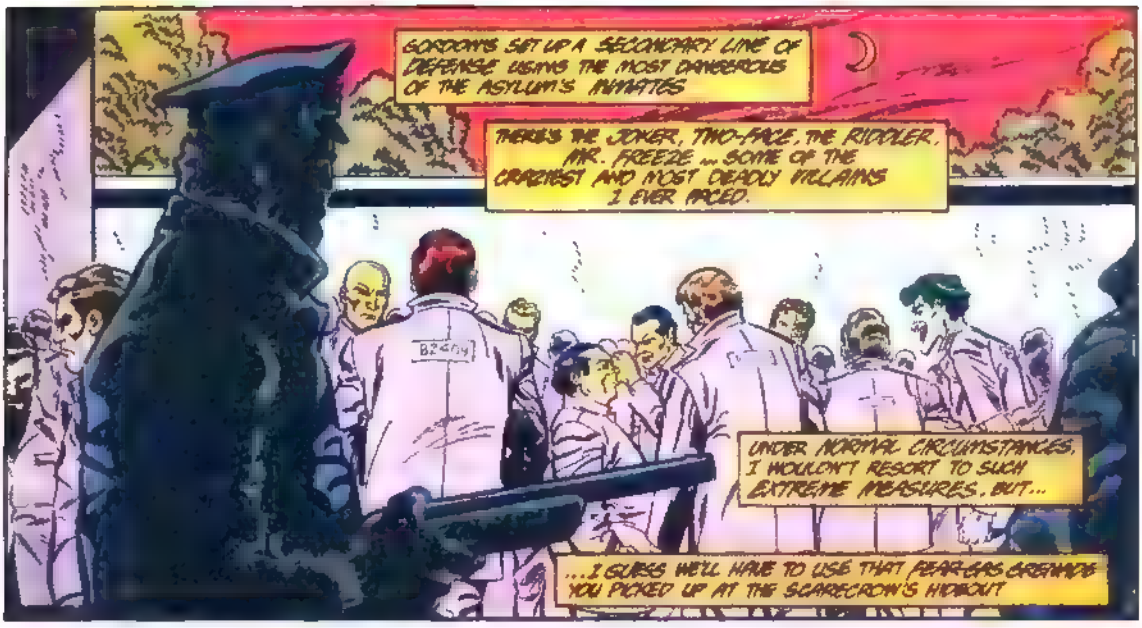
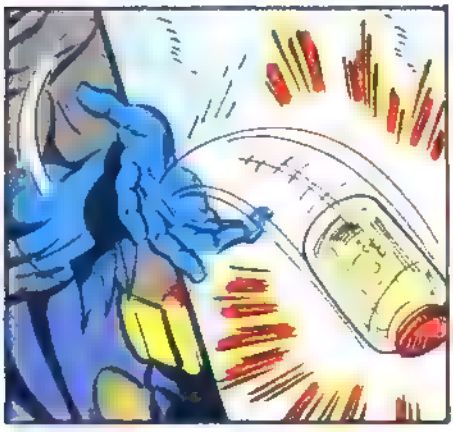
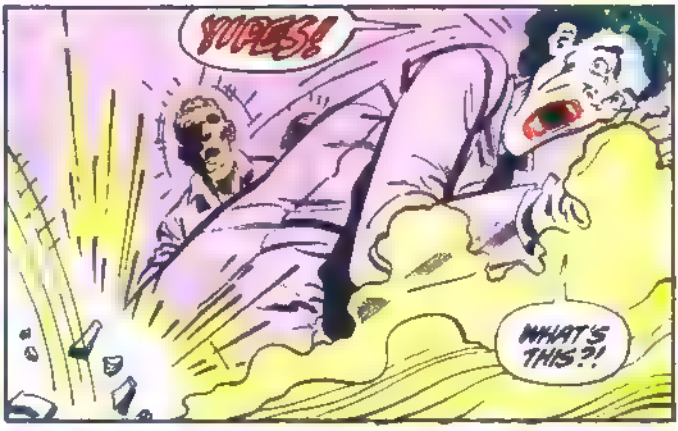

QUITE A FEAT BRINGING IN THE SCARECROW ALL BY HIMSELF.
IT SURE IS.
I JUST DON'T WANT THE BOY TAKING ANY UNNECESSARY RISK BEFORE I THINK HE'S READY.
AFRAID THE LAD WILL REACH A POINT WHERE HE WON'T NEED YOU ANY LONGER?
PERHAPS.
I WOULDN'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER THAT PROSPECT, MASTER BRUCE.
I WON'T. IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH, I'M GOING TO NEED THE SCARECROW'S OUTFIT AND A NEW FACE.
I'LL PREPARE THE LATEX MIXTURE, SIR.
NIGHT HAD FALLEN BY THE TIME WE RETURNED TO ARKHAM ASYLUM.
ALFRED, BENEATH A SET OF FAKE WHISKERS, DROVE THE AMBULANCE.
WHAT YOU GOT?
A RETURN CUSTOMER.
THE SCARECROW.
WE'LL TAKE HIM FROM HERE.
BUT I MUST INSIST ON ACCOMPANYING MY PATIENT.
WHO'RE YOU?
DR MERULA'S THE NAME, FROM GOTHAM GENERAL
WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED, THE POOR MAN SUFFERED A BEATING AT THE HANDS OF THE BATMAN.
WHY IS HE STILL WEARING HIS MASK?
9

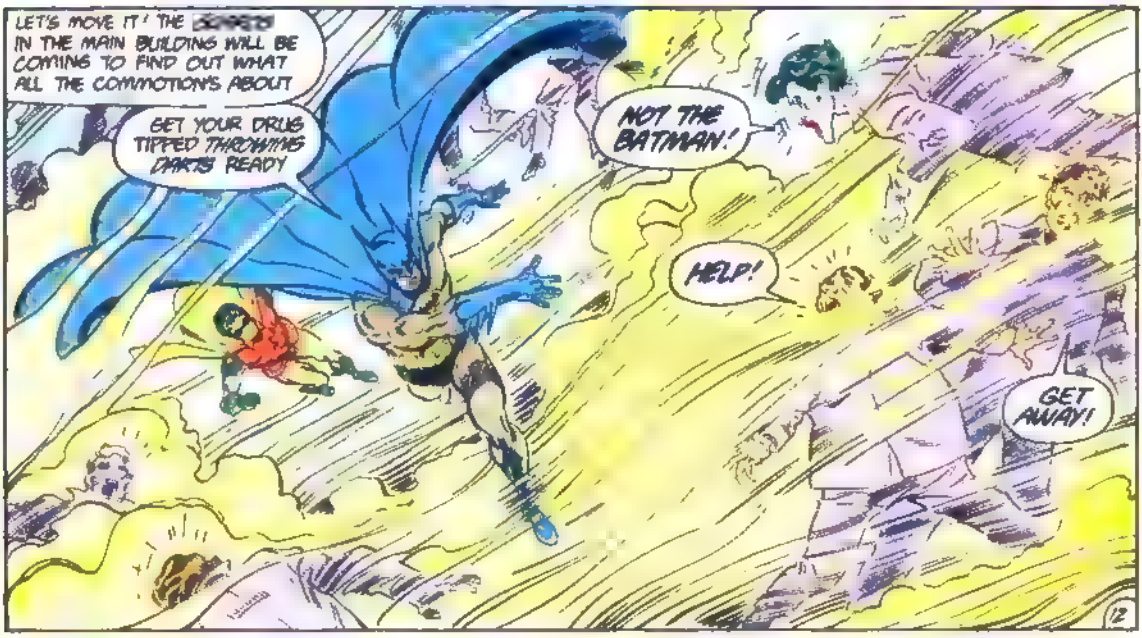
THE PATIENT BECAME QUITE AGITATED WHEN I REMOVED IT EARLIER
THOUGHT I'D HUMOR HIM UNTIL WE GOT HIM SETTLED
IS THAT RIGHT...?
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU HAVE THE RIGHT MAN HERE, IF WE DON'T CHECK?
I WOULDN'T DO THAT..
BUT IF YOU INSIST..
MY NAME... MASA
ALL RIGHT, TAKE HIM TO THE INFIRMARY
YOU CAN GO NOW, OFFICER
BEEN ORDERED TO STAY WITH YOU, DOC
VERY WELL
SWEET DREAMS
TIME TO GET UP MR SCARECROW
WHATEVER YOU SAY, DR VERULA

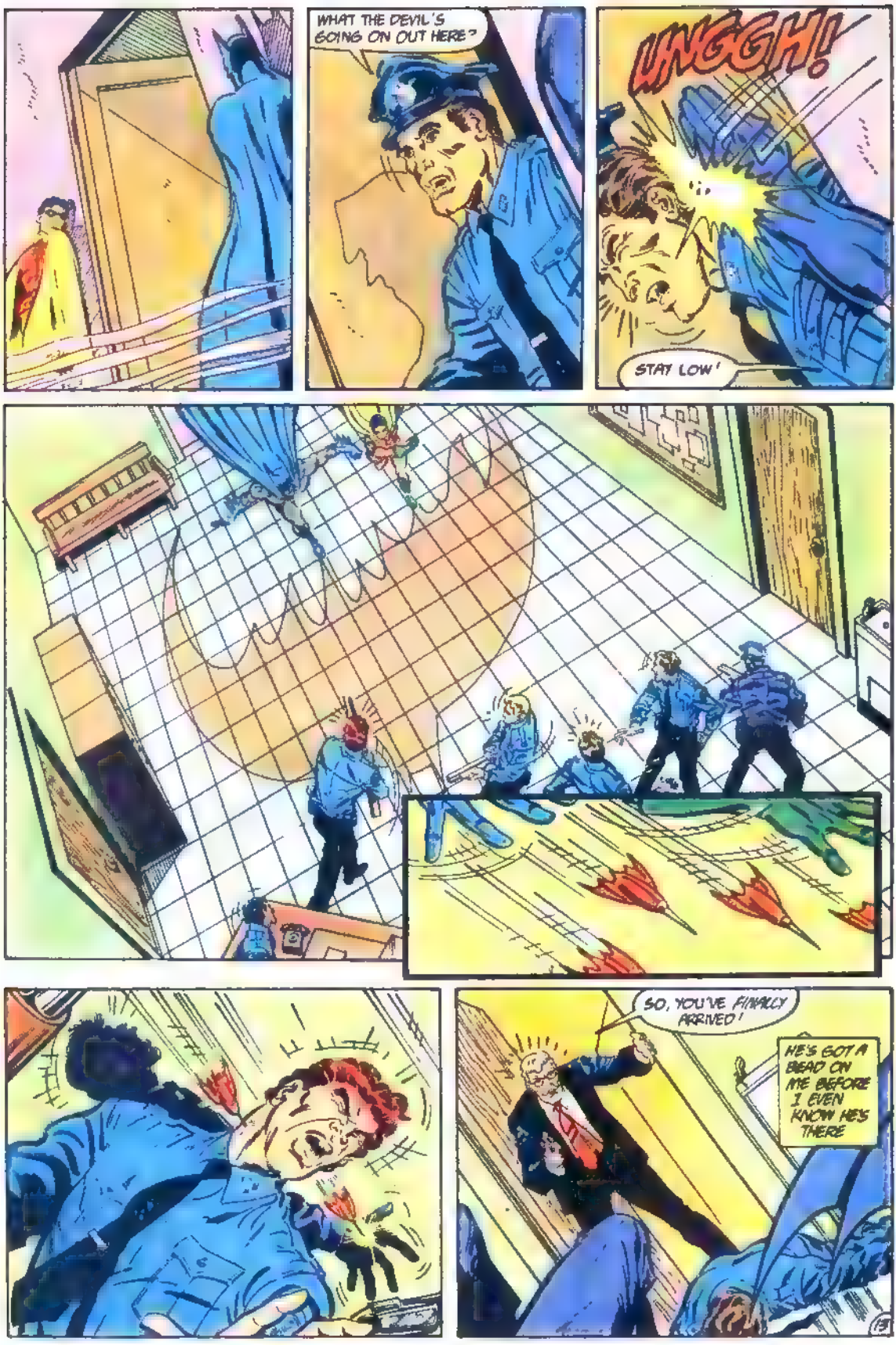

YOU'RE LUCKY NO ONE IN THAT GROUP WAS A BIRD FANCIER
THEY MIGHT HAVE REMEMBERED THAT MERULA MIGRATORIA IS THE SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION FOR A ROBIN
LIFE'S NOT WORTH LIVING IF YOU DON'T TAKE A FEW CHANCES
I'D THINK TAKING ON 30 ARMED POLICEMEN WOULD BE ENOUGH THRILL FOR ONE DAY.
YEAH, THAT OUGHT TO BE A KICK. LET'S GET TO IT!
THE NEXT 15 MINUTES ARE SOMEWHAT TENSE
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE GUARDS AT THE FRONT GATE AND INFIRMARY
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CROSS OVER TO AND TAKE THE MAIN BUILDINGS, THEN SPRING THE ACROBAT MAN
HEY! WHAT ARE ALL THESE INMATES DOING IN THE EXERCISE YARD THIS LATE AT NIGHT
BETTER TAKE ANOTHER LOOK, ROBIN
THESE AREN'T JUST ANY INMATES...

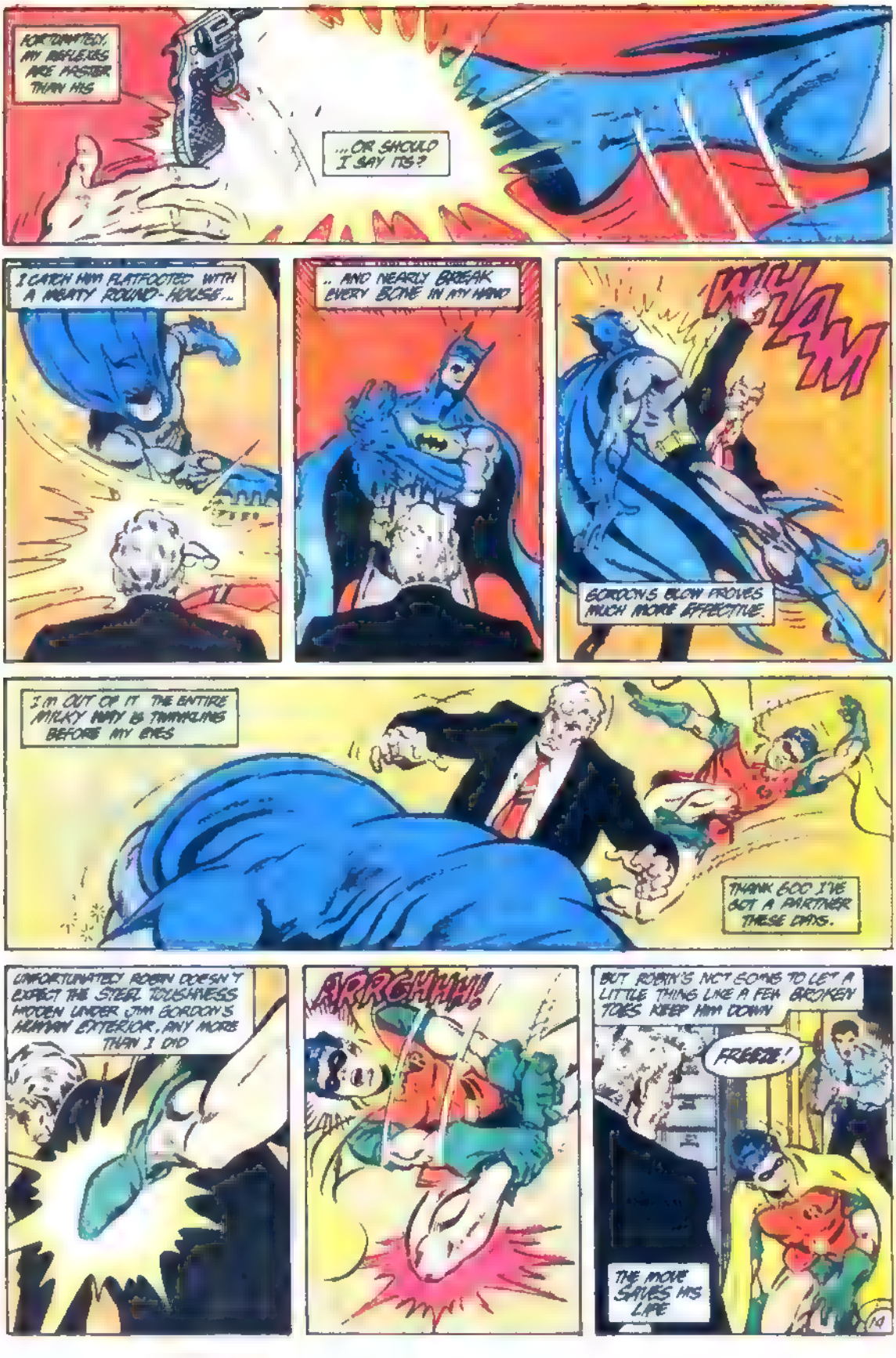

GORDON'S SET UP A SECONDARY LINE OF DEFENSE USING THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE ASYLUM'S INMATES
THERE'S THE JOKER, TWO-FACE, THE RIDDLER, MR. FREEZE -- SOME OF THE CRAZIEST AND MOST DEADLY VILLAINS I EVER ARCED.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULDN'T RESORT TO SUCH EXTREME MEASURES. BUT...
...I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO USE THAT FEAR-GAS GRENADE YOU PICKED UP AT THE SCARECROW'S HIDEOUT



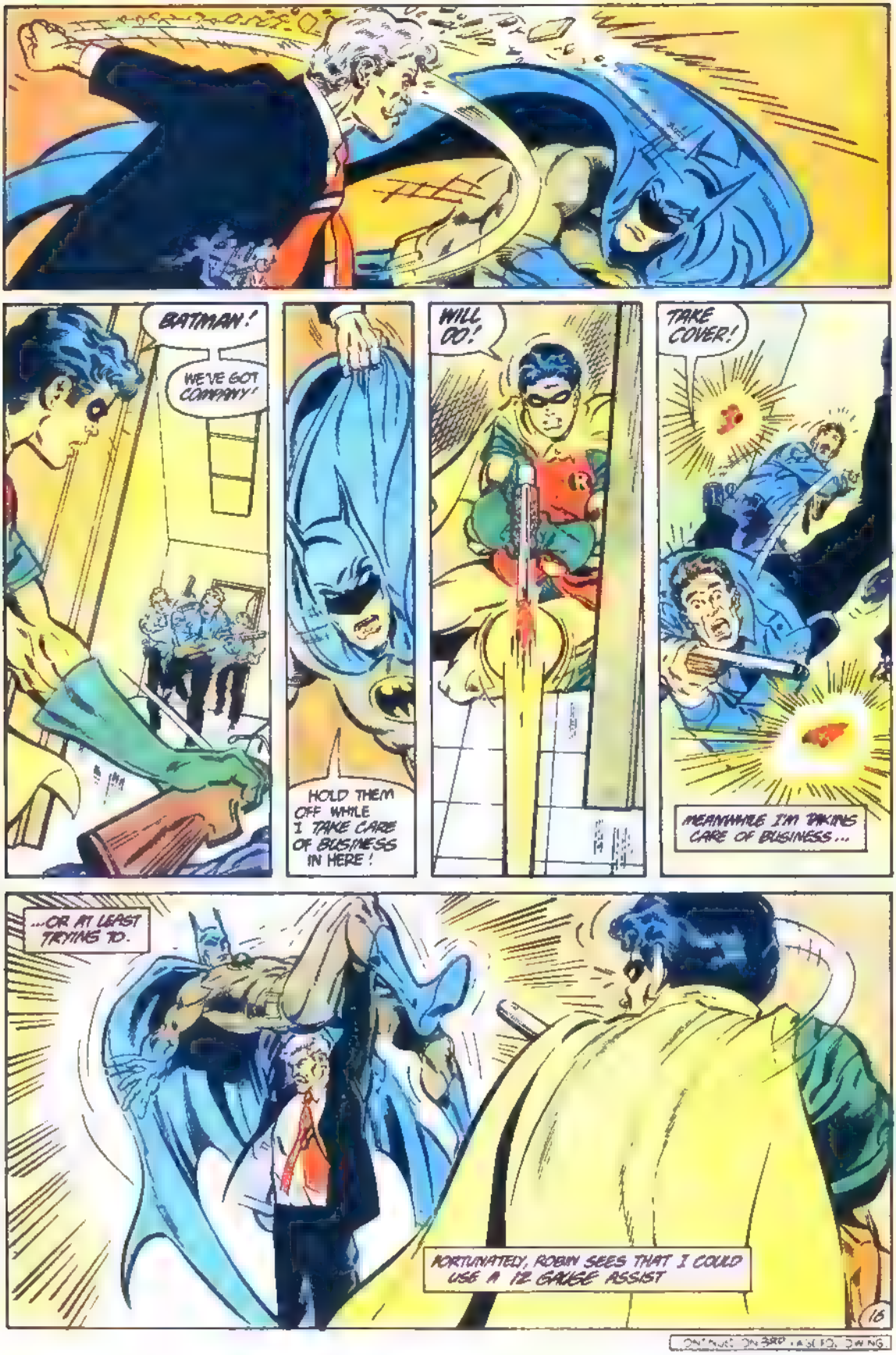

YUPPES!
WHAT'S THIS?!


LET'S MOVE IT! THE [redacted] IN THE MAIN BUILDING WILL BE COMING TO FIND OUT WHAT ALL THE COMMOTION'S ABOUT
GET YOUR DRUG TIPPED TRANQUILIZER DARTS READY
NOT THE BATMAN!
HELP!
GET AWAY!


WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON OUT HERE?
UNGGH!
STAY LOW!
SO, YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED!
HE'S GOT A BEAD ON ME BEFORE I EVEN KNOW HE'S THERE

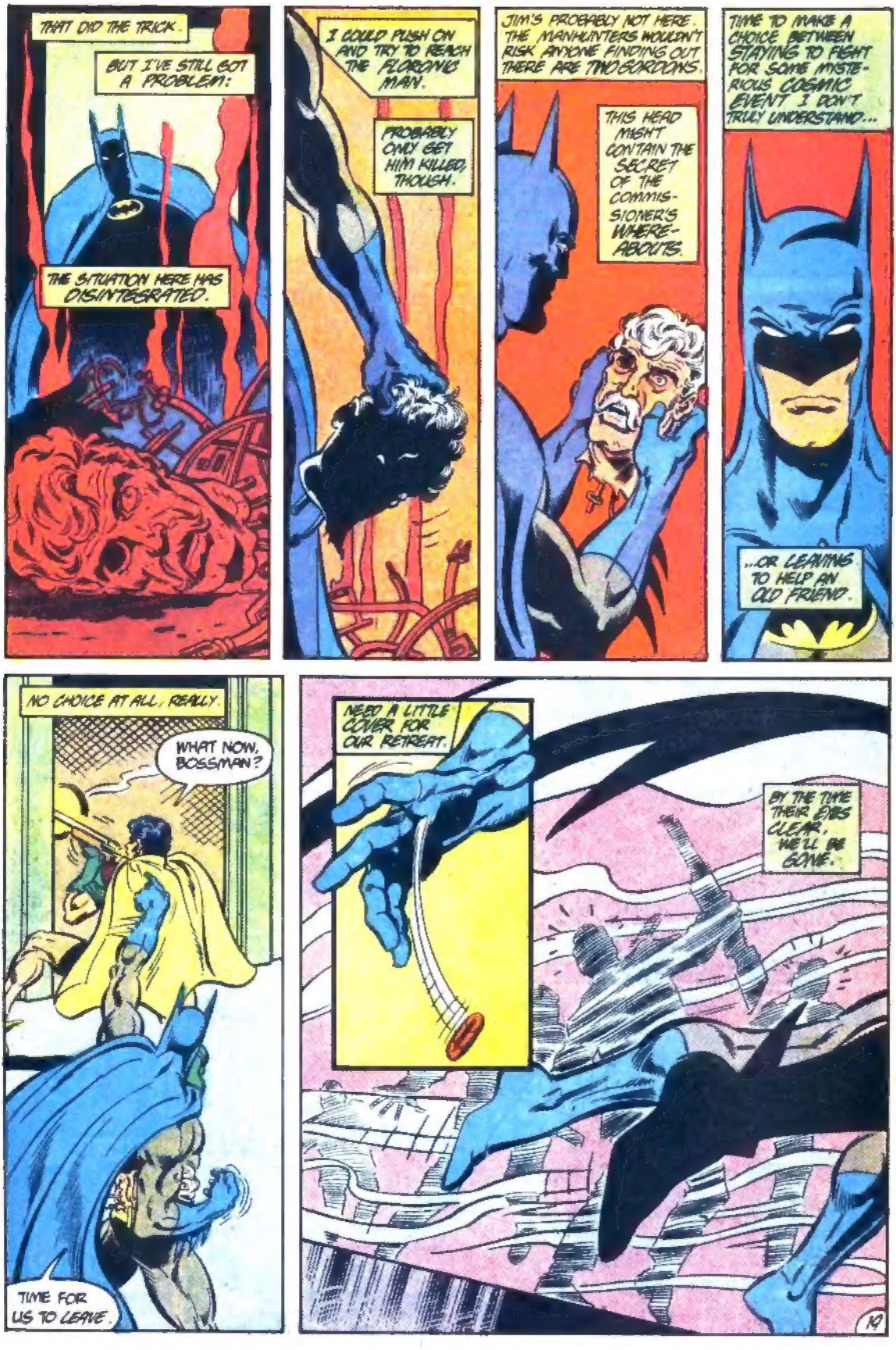

FORTUNATELY, MY REFLEXES ARE FASTER THAN HIS
...OR SHOULD I SAY ITS?
I CATCH HIM FLATFOOTED WITH A MIGHTY ROUND-HOUSE...
...AND NEARLY BREAK EVERY BONE IN MY HAND
WHAM
GORDON'S BLOW PROVES MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE.
I'M OUT OF IT. THE ENTIRE MILKY WAY IS TWINKLING BEFORE MY EYES
THANK GOD I'VE GOT A PARTNER THESE DAYS.
UNFORTUNATELY ROBIN DOESN'T EXPECT THE STEEL TOUGHNESS HIDDEN UNDER JIM GORDON'S HUMAN EXTERIOR, ANY MORE THAN I DID
ARRGHHH!
BUT ROBIN'S NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE THING LIKE A FEW BROKEN TOES KEEP HIM DOWN
FREEZE!
THE MOVE SAVES HIS LIFE
14

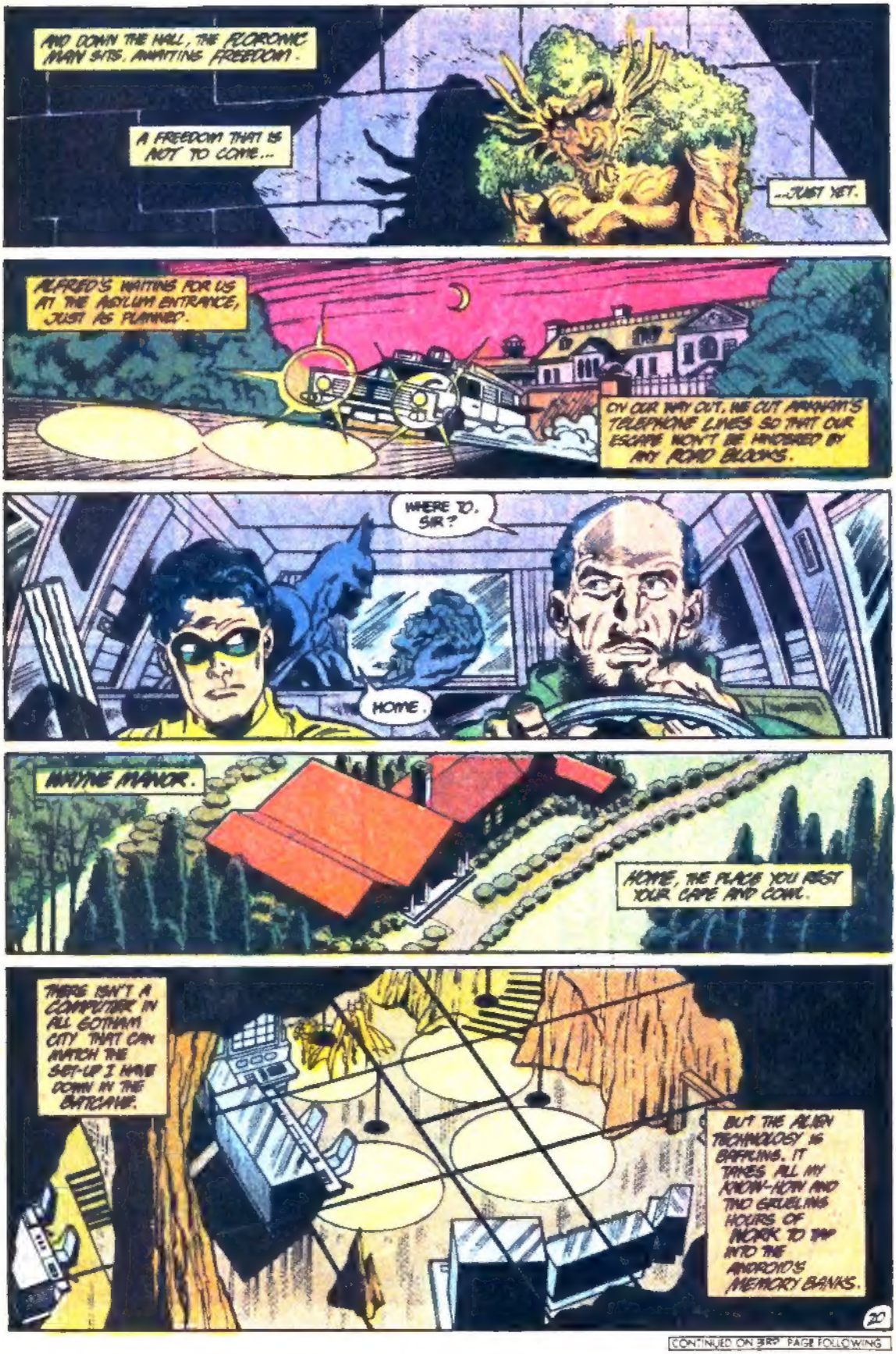
KA-BLAM
THE DISGUISE HAS BEEN PENETRATED
THE PRETENSE IS ABANDONED
THE MANHUNTER STANDS REVEALED
COMMISSIONER! I'm
URRGG!
15


BATMAN!
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
HOLD THEM OFF WHILE I TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS IN HERE!
WILL DO!
TAKE COVER!
MEANWHILE I'M TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS...
...OR AT LEAST TRYING TO.
FORTUNATELY, ROBIN SEES THAT I COULD USE A 12 GAUGE ASSIST
16
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

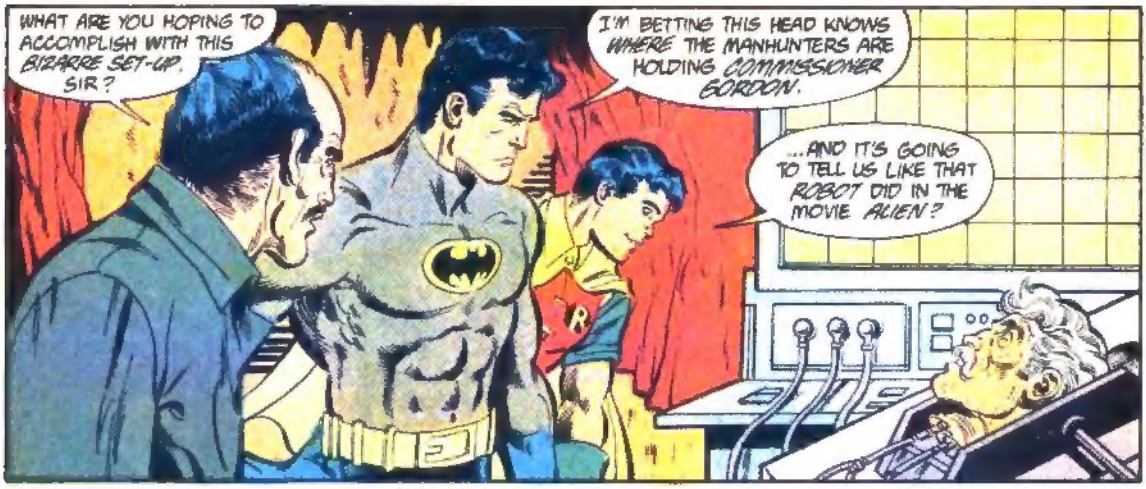
GOOD SHOT, THAT LAD
TAUGHT HIM MYSELF
I WAS HOPING THE SHOTGUN WOULD TAKE OUT THE MANHUNTER
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY...
GOING TO HAVE TO BLOW THE SUCKER UP.
SHAPED PLASTIQUE CHARGE.
SIX SECOND TIME DELAND FUSE.
6 SECONDS
5 SECONDS
4 SECONDS.
3 SECONDS.
17

2 SECONDS
1 SECOND
ROBIN, COVER!
KA-HOOOM!


THAT DID THE TRICK.
BUT I'VE STILL GOT A PROBLEM:
THE SITUATION HERE HAS DISINTEGRATED.
I COULD PUSH ON AND TRY TO REACH THE FLORONIC MAN.
PROBABLY ONLY GET HIM KILLED, THOUGH.
JIM'S PROBABLY NOT HERE. THE MANHUNTERS WOULDN'T RISK ANYONE FINDING OUT THERE ARE TWO GORDONS.
THIS HEAD MIGHT CONTAIN THE SECRET OF THE COMMISSIONER'S WHEREABOUTS.
TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN STAYING TO FIGHT FOR SOME MYSTERIOUS COSMIC EVENT I DON'T TRULY UNDERSTAND...
...OR LEAVING TO HELP AN OLD FRIEND.
NO CHOICE AT ALL, REALLY.
WHAT NOW, BOSSMAN?
TIME FOR US TO LEAVE.
NEED A LITTLE COVER FOR OUR RETREAT.
BY THE TIME THEIR EYES CLEAR, WE'LL BE GONE.
19


AND DOWN THE HALL, THE FLORONIC MAN SITS, AWAITING FREEDOM.
A FREEDOM THAT IS NOT TO COME...
...JUST YET.
ALFRED'S WAITING FOR US AT THE ASYLUM ENTRANCE, JUST AS PLANNED.
CV OUR WAY OUT. WE CUT ARKHAM'S TELEPHONE LINES SO THAT OUR ESCAPE WON'T BE HINDERED BY ANY ROAD BLOCKS.
WHERE TO, SIR?
HOME.
WAYNE MANOR.
HOME, THE PLACE YOU REST YOUR CAPE AND COWL.
THERE ISN'T A COMPUTER IN ALL GOTHAM CITY THAT CAN MATCH THE SET-UP I HAVE DOWN IN THE BATCAVE.
BUT THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY IS BAFFLING. IT TAKES ALL MY KNOW-HOW AND TWO GRUELING HOURS OF WORK TO TAP INTO THE ANDROID'S MEMORY BANKS.
20

CONTINUED ON 3RD* PAGE FOLLOWING


WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS BIZARRE SET-UP, SIR?
I'M BETTING THIS HEAD KNOWS WHERE THE MANHUNTERS ARE HOLDING COMMISSIONER GORDON.
...AND IT'S GOING TO TELL US LIKE THAT ROBOT DID IN THE MOVIE ALIEN?

NOT EXACTLY.
THIS HEAD'S TALKING DAYS ARE OVER AND DONE WITH.
I'M GOING TO TRANSFER THE STORED DATA WITHIN IT TO THE COMPUTER'S MEMORY BANKS.

GORDON'S GONE TO LOUISIANA!

NOW WHY WOULD THEY STASH HIM DOWN THERE? DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE GET THERE.

BEFORE YOU GO, SIR. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?

NO TELLING WHAT NASTY SURPRISES MIGHT BE LURKING WITHIN IT.
21

TOSS IT IN THE TRASH.
HOLD DOWN THE FORT, ROBIN.
I'VE GOT TO REJOIN THE OTHER HEROES FOR A SHORT TIME--PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MILLENNIUM--
THEN I'M HEADING SOUTH.
MEANWHILE, BACK AT ARKHAM ASYLUM.
BOY, WHAT A MESS! SOMEONE'S GOING TO CATCH IT FOR THIS ONE.
GORDON MISSING. TWELVE MEN IN THE INFIRMARY.
THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IS THE FACT THAT...
...WE KEPT THE BATMAN FROM BUSTING OUT THE FLORONIC MAN.
THIS BOZO'S AIN'T GOING NOWHERE.
HE'S WRONG ABOUT THAT.
MY TIME DRAWS NEAR.
I WILL BE FREE!

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN THE PAGES OF...

MILLENNIUM #3 AND DETECTIVE #582! BE THERE!